

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER.

FOR THE YEAR

1954



WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1954

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)

DR. WILLIAM MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.,

Albert Place, Little Lever. (Telephone, Farnworth 39).

Sanitary Inspector (Joint Appointment, Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector)

A. JAMIESON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Council Offices, Little Lever. (Telephone, Farnworth 637).

OTHER OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk, Chief Financial Officer & Rating Officer

A. L. HUGHES

Surveyor (Joint Appointment, Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector)

A. JAMIESON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Housing Manager

JAMES C. COLLINGE

Collector

R. JAMES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER
FOR THE YEAR 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Little Lever
Urban District Council:

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval, my report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever during the year ended December 31st, 1954.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 4,760, compared with 4,791 in the 1951 census. There are 1,648 inhabited houses in the district, as against 1,647 in 1953. This gives a rate of approximately three persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £23,558, and the sum raised by a penny rate is approximately £90.

Social conditions are quite reasonable, and there is little or no unemployment. The district is mainly industrial in character, the chief industries being cotton weaving, paper-making, ebonite and plastics manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, pre-cast concrete goods making, brick making, and dairy farming.

Births

The number of live births registered in 1954 was 77, as against 81 in 1953. This figure is made up of 43 males and 34 females. There was one male illegitimate birth. The birth-rate is 17.1 per 1,000 of population, as against 17.2 in 1953, and a mean rate of 16.3 for the previous five years. The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 15.2.

Still-Births

There were three still-births in 1954, all of them males, and one of them illegitimate. This gives a rate of 38 per 1,000 of total births, compared with 58 in 1953, and a mean rate of 36 for the previous five years.

Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes in 1954 was 62. This number comprises 29 males and 33 females. This is a decrease of 9 on the figure for 1953. The death-rate for 1954 is 14.1 per 1,000 of population, as against 15.4 for 1953, and a mean rate of 15.5 for the previous five years. The death-rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 11.3. The average age at death was 65.9 years for males, and 68.4 years for females in the district.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of children under the age of one year, in 1954, was two, one male and one female. This is the same number as in 1953, and is equal to a rate of 26 per 1,000 of live births, as against 25 for 1953, and a mean rate of 37 for the previous five years. The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales in 1954, was 25.5.

Maternal Mortality

There was one maternal death in 1954, as against two in 1953. This gives a rate of 12.50 per 1,000 of total births, compared with a rate of 23.26 in 1953, and a mean rate of 6.22 for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 0.69.

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Midwifery Services

There are no midwives residing in the district, but there are three midwives on the list of midwives engaged by the County Council. All three reside in Farnworth, and are available for the Little Lever area. They are readily accessible, as all have telephones and cars. The service provided by them has been, in all respects, highly satisfactory.

As in previous years, many cases have been admitted to the Bolton District General Hospital and to Maternity Homes outside the district, but many confinements took place in the homes of the patients.

General Provision of Health Services in the District

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Maternity and Child Welfare
School Clinic

Situation

Little Lever
Little Lever

Provided by

Lancashire C.C.
Lancashire C.C.

Infectious Diseases

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1954:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Sent to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths in Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Whooping Cough	4	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	10	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	2	2	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	3	1	2	Nil	Nil	1
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	3	2	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	3	1	3	Nil	1
Totals:-	28	17	11	6	Nil	2

Sex and Age Incidence in Infectious Diseases

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Measles</u>		<u>Dysentery</u>		<u>C.S. Meningitis</u>		<u>Pneumonia</u>		<u>Diphtheria</u>		<u>Scarlet Fever</u>		<u>Pulm. Tuberculosis</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
3 -	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
10 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	3	1	5	5	2	Nil	Nil	1	1	2	1	Nil	2	1	3	1

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1954:-

<u>Age</u> <u>Periods</u> <u>Years</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:-	3	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

At the end of 1954, the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was 23, comprising 19 Respiratory cases and 4 Non-Respiratory cases.

The death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1954 was 0.21 per 1,000 of population, as against a rate of 0.63 in 1953, and a mean rate of 0.40 for the previous five years.

The death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales in 1954 was 0.16 per 1,000 of population.

Causes of Death

The following table shows the deaths from all causes in 1954:-

<u>Diseases causing Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	5	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	3	2	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Disease	7	13	20
Other Circulatory Disease	3	3	6
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
Accidents, other than motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	-	1	1
Total:-	29	33	62

Causes of Death (continued)

There were five deaths from Cancer in 1954, compared with four in 1953. This gives a death-rate of 1.05 per 1,000 of population, as against 0.84 in 1953, and a mean rate of 1.83 for the previous five years.

The death-rate from Cancer in England and Wales in 1954 was 2.04 per 1,000 of population.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

As in 1953, no cases of this disease were notified during 1954.

District Nursing

There is one District Nurse resident in the district. As in previous years, she has given skilled and devoted attention to all who have needed her services, and has been a great help and comfort to the sick and old.

Her efforts have been ably backed up by the devotion and kindness of the members of the Home Help Service established in the district.

Hospital and Ambulance Services

The district is adequately served in the matter of hospital accommodation, and no difficulties have been encountered in getting urgent cases admitted to hospital, but it is often extremely difficult to get aged and chronic cases into hospital owing to continued shortage of staff and beds. There is still considerable delay in certain departments of the Hospitals Out-Patients Organisation, in obtaining appointments for consultations.

The ambulance service has again been highly satisfactory, and there have been no grounds for complaint. Urgent cases are always dealt with promptly and efficiently and there is at all times the fullest co-operation with the medical practitioners in the district.

Adoptive Acts in force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, Part 4.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907, Parts 2 and 4.

Public Health Acts, 1925, Part 2 (except Sections 22 and 25).

Sanitary Accommodation

The types of sanitary accommodation, with the numbers of each type at the end of 1954, were as follows:-

Privy Middens	2
Closets attached to these middens	2
Pail Closets	8
Waste Water Closets	51
Fresh Water Closets	1,704
Movable Ashbins	1,648
Number of houses on Water-carriage system	1,641.

Sanitary Inspections

During 1954, the number of premises visited for the purpose of sanitary inspections was 278. As a result of these visits, 189 defects or nuisances were discovered. Of these, 70 were abated through the issuing of 19 informal notices and 7 statutory notices. No legal proceedings were required.

Sanitary Inspections (continued)

Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds have been periodically inspected during the year, and have been found to be in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

There are now only four dairy farms in the district. The milk produced from these farms has been satisfactory in quality.

Factories and Workshops have been periodically inspected, and their condition has been found to be satisfactory.

Food shops have also been inspected from time to time, and have been found to be in a clean and fairly satisfactory state on the whole. There is, however, far too much food displayed without protection from pollution by flies, and food is far too frequently handled in selling, instead of picking up the food by means of implements. Owners of shops, and employees, have been instructed as to the vital importance of cleanliness in the handling of foodstuffs. It is expected that the Model Byelaws for Food Hygiene will be adopted before long, and that, in consequence, great improvement will be effected.

Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's mains, and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with a piped supply being 1,648.

During 1954, 22 Bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made, and were found to be unsatisfactory without treatment. Chemical analyses of the raw water to the number of 6 were made, and these were found to be satisfactory. In addition, of the water going into supply, where treatment is installed, 137 Bacteriological examinations were made, all of which were satisfactory, and 32 Chemical analyses were made, these also proving satisfactory.

The water supply flows from reservoirs into which upland surface-water flows. All waters are chlorinated, and any water with a plumbo-solvent action is lime treated.

During the year, 63 yards of 3-inch main, and 44 yards of 4-inch main, were installed for servicing new houses.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal

The arrangements for sewage disposal were again satisfactory during the year. The sewage is treated by screening, sedimentation and filtration. No extensions to the sewage works were carried out during 1954. Samples of the effluent from the sewage works have been taken and tested from time to time by the Inspectors of the Lancashire Rivers Board, and have been passed as satisfactory.

There are still seven houses in the district without sewerage systems, due to the fact that it is impracticable for them to be connected to a sewer.

The sewers and manholes have been inspected periodically. Sewers have been flushed and manholes cleaned, and measures have been constantly taken to keep rats under control.

House refuse is collected by the Council's covered motor wagon. Collections are made each week in the winter months, and at intervals of ten days in the summer months. There are now only two privy closets in the district, and these are cleared each fortnight. Such cesspools as there are, are kept in order by their owners. The refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping on the Council's tip.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Council are members of the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Society. The time-limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per half-hour. There are 15 factory and works chimneys in the district, and six observations were made on these during the year, but no legal proceedings were required.

Personal contact is maintained with works managers and firemen in the effort to keep atmospheric pollution by smoke down to a minimum. As a result, willing co-operation is usually met with, but there are occasions when some firemen become somewhat careless in their duties.

There are other sources of atmospheric pollution, other than black smoke from chimneys. Fine dust from a chemical works, acrid fumes from a foundry, fine coal-dust from the countless coal wagons that go through the district daily, and dust even from the Council's refuse wagon, have all added their quota to the pollution of the atmosphere in the district and tended to make life here grimmer and dirtier than it need be. Some of this pollution can, and will be dealt with at a local level, but some will need to be dealt with at a higher level.

Housing

No new houses were erected by the local authority during 1954, but five new houses were erected by other bodies or persons.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority

1. Under 1919 Scheme	113
2. Under Housing Act, 1923	11
3. Under Housing Act, 1924	122
4. Erected during 1936	30
5. Erected during 1937	38
6. Erected during 1938	34
7. Erected during 1947	14
8. Erected during 1948	32
9. Erected during 1949	44
10. Erected during 1951	24
11. Erected during 1952	<u>20</u>
<u>Total:-</u>	<u>482</u>

Housing Conditions

The general standard of housing in the district is fairly good. The commonest type of house is the four-roomed cottage containing two bedrooms. There are about 900 of this type in the district, but there are still about 200 of these which fall well below the general standard. The chief defects in these houses are dampness, low ceilings, old age, absence of bathrooms, poor water-pressure, inadequate sanitary conveniences, absence of hot-water systems, and bad siting. Many of them are a hundred or more years old, and have had little or nothing spent on them in the way of maintenance. As a result, they are now in a very dilapidated condition, and the cost of making them into decent houses would be prohibitive and uneconomic. There is a considerable number of houses which warrant demolition. Many of these were put on a "suspect" list about eighteen or more years ago, and, of course, since nothing has been spent on their maintenance, their condition is much worse than it was then.

As in 1953, no new houses were built by the local authority in 1954, and there is still a formidable list of people waiting for a new house. It is calculated that some 500 new houses of all types are needed to replace the old, sub-standard houses, and to house young couples embarking on married life.

Housing Conditions (continued)

A scheme of 26 maisonettes and 26 flats was begun during 1954 on the Kershaw Avenue site, and these were expected to be ready for occupation in the early part of 1955. This experiment of building flats with maisonettes super-imposed on them is one which will require careful study, as there are obvious disadvantages in having family houses built on top of flats.

The outstanding need of the district is still the building of three- and four-bedroomed houses, together with bungalows or flats for the elderly people.

No cases of overcrowding were reported during the year, but there are still too many young married couples who have to live with parents because they cannot get a home of their own.

Town Planning

The County Council have delegated powers to the local Council in connection with Town Planning matters, and the local Council co-operate closely with the County authorities in all Town Planning questions.

Disinfection

Ten houses were disinfected during the year, after notifications of infectious diseases. The method used is Formaldehyde Vapour in the sealed room of the house.

In addition, one Council house found to be infested, was disinfested by Zaldecide D.D.T. After disinfestation has been carried out, regular visits and inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspector in order to avoid the possibility of re-infestation.

Vaccination and Diphtheria Immunisation

Once again, immunisations and re-immunisations were carried out during the year, the figures showing a welcome improvement on the figures for 1953.

During 1954, 38 children under the age of five years were immunised, and a further seven children between the ages of five and ten were re-immunised. Although there is an improvement as compared with 1953, there are still too many children not being brought forward for immunisation and re-immunisation.

One case of Diphtheria was notified, but it turned out to be a very mild and dubious case. This is the only case found since 1951. It is, however, imperative that parents should see to it that their children are immunised before the age of one year, and re-immunised when they reach school age. If parents continue to neglect this simple duty, the value of the immunisations carried out in previous years will be completely discounted.

In addition, 24 Primary Vaccinations and 3 Re-Vaccinations were carried out. Since the births registered in 1954 were 77, it is obvious that many children are not being vaccinated. Probably the advent of another scare such as occurred in 1953 would cause parents to rush to have their children vaccinated, but it is stupid and senseless to wait until the emergency is upon us.

General Observations

The general health of the district during 1954 was very good. The number of births was slightly less than in 1953, but the number of deaths was less. The birth-rate is higher than that for England and Wales, but again the death-rate is higher than that for the country as a whole.

The Maternal Mortality rate was less than in 1953, whilst the Infantile Mortality rate remained at approximately the same.

The average age at death was higher for both males and females than it was in 1953.

There were no epidemics of any sort during the year, and the district was comparatively free from infectious diseases.

The death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis was less than in 1953, but the death-rate from Cancer showed a slight increase.

The delay in building new houses and the retaining of houses which ought to be demolished create many cases of hardship. The district cannot pretend to be a "liveable" and congenial township unless the problem of demolishing the old houses is tackled with vigour and determination, plus imagination. Life in the industrial North can never be the same as life in the more leisurely South, but that is all the more reason for trying to make the district more pleasant and less grim than it is.

Again it has to be emphasised that insufficient recreational facilities are available for the district. The bowling green provided by the Council has been well patronised in spite of the poor summer, and the playing field has also proved a boon, but these cater for only a very small section of the community. The youth of the district have, as yet, nothing provided for them.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic provided by the County Council has again been of great value, but is still held in the same grimy, dilapidated and unwholesome premises that have been used for so many years.

In conclusion, it is pleasant to put on record the fact that improvements are constantly, if slowly at times, being made in the amenities and appearance of the district, but there is still a great deal to be done. With vigour and resolution, however, Little Lever can and must be made a much pleasanter place in which to live.

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch.B.
Medical Officer of Health.

15th June, 1955.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 & 111)

Nature of Work	M/c. Line No.	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of Outworkers In August List reqd. by Sectn. 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	No. of Instances of work in un- wholesome premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing (Making &c. Apparel (Cleaning & (Washing Household Linen Lace, Lace Curtains & Nets Curtains & Furniture Hangings Furniture & Uphlstry. Electro-Plate File Making Brass & Brass Artcls. Fur Pulling Iron & Steel Cables & Chains Iron & Steel Anchors & Grapnels Cart Gear Locks, Latches & Keys Umbrellas, etc. Artificial Flowers Nets, other than Wire Nets Tents Sacks Racquets & Tennis Balls Paper Bags The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof, made wholly or par- tially of paper. Brush Making Pea Picking Feather Sorting Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc. Stuffed Toys Basket Making Chocolates & Sweetmts. Cosaques, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc. Textile Weaving Lampshades	13 14 15 16 17 18. 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44	1					
Total:		1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

15th June, 1955.

Signature:- W. MOTTERSHEAD,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER, FOR THE
YEAR 1954, ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES
ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises (1)	M/c. Line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	16	7	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	20	10	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' premises)	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total:-	-	37	17	1	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three, or more "cases")

Particulars	M/c. Line No.	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases where Prosecu- tions instituted
		Found	Remedied	Referred		
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness(S1)	4					
Overcrowding (S.2)	5					
Unreasonable Temp.(S.3)	6					
Inadequate Ventltn.(S4)	7					
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	8					
San.Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	9					
(b) Unsuitable or Dfctv.	10	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not sep.for sexes	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total:	-	1	1	Nil	1	Nil

